

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
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5. [] Talked with Bob Michaels, of the House Appropriations Subcommittee staff, regarding Mr. Cannon's budget authorization letter. Michaels said that having reviewed the letter it was his opinion that inasmuch as the Senate resolution authorizing continuing appropriations was a determination which was made later in point of time than the Committee's letter, he felt the resolution should apply and he saw no need for an additional letter unless we had other feelings on the subject. I told him we would be happy to accept his interpretation of the letter. He asked if we had any difficulty with paragraph 2 of the letter which authorized appropriations up to a maximum dollar figure. I told him that inasmuch as this paragraph did not contain a restriction for the month of July as in paragraph 1, we had no problem. I did mention, however, the possibility that the Bureau of the Budget might have different feelings on this. He said if we found this to be the case, he would be happy to place a call to Mr. Amory. This information was passed on to the Comptroller.

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6. [] Talked with [] DD/P's office, and Bob Michaels, regarding the State Department and AID request to the Agency for permission to discuss, in a limited way, intelligence information pertaining to shipping to Cuba. [] said the Director had made a determination not to authorize State and AID to discuss intelligence aspects on this subject, but added if it was necessary to give any information to the Appropriations Committee it would be given by this Agency under appropriate safeguards. Mr. Sheldon has asked AID and State to define their requirements so that we can tailor our contribution to their needs.

I alerted Bob Michaels to this problem advising him of our position with respect to intelligence information. Michaels said this was definitely a political issue which was being pressed by Representatives Laird and Rhodes and he felt certain it would come up again. (The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 5 August.) Michaels said these members (who are apparently receiving information from some sources on this subject) are in effect accusing the Administration of violating the restriction in section 107 of the Foreign Aid bill (P.L. 87-872) which prohibits assistance to any countries which provide certain types of arms and materials to the Castro regime. After discussing this subject with the Staff Assistant to the Foreign Operations (Passman) Subcommittee, he had found that the Chairman is merely interested in putting in the record of the hearings a statement that there have been no violations of P.L. 87-872. Michaels said if Laird and Rhodes continue to press this matter we might find it desirable to discuss the problems involved with Representatives Ford and Passman. I told Michaels I would discuss this matter further with our people and be in touch with him tomorrow.

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